

ALABAMA REPORTER,
IS
PUBLISHED
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING
BY
T. J. CROSS & M. H. CRUIKSHANK
PROPRIETORS.

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ALL JOB WORK—CASH.

ALABAMA REPORTER.

THURSDAY MORNING Jan. 21.

—M. R. THOS. S. SMITH, of Sylvester, is my authorized agent during my absence from the country.

Feb. 18th 1863 L. S. WHITE

—We understand that Capt. Koss Miller's Company are at Alexander, recruiting their stock for the present.

Also, that Capt. Bowie's company will be here in a short time.

—See the Advertisements of J. C. Swain who wishes to sell a House and Land.

—Notice the Tax Collector's Ad.

—See the Cards of John and Winona, Esq., and Mr. Saxon, Esq.

Notice to School Trustees.

The school fund for Talladega county is ready for distribution. Trustees are required, (those who have not already done so) to bring or send up their reports, and also Teacher's reports for money paid the proper credit on my books.

R. W. HUSTON,
County Sept.

Hall to the Chief.

All persons interested in forming a command for Gen. John H. Morgan are respectfully invited to meet in Talladega on Monday the 25th inst.

—Persons interested are invited to do so.

Many young men who are not able to equip themselves have expressed a desire to join the command; the wealthy men of the country ought to equip them.

—In the beginning of the war, the government equipped the men in their regiments. Shall it be said that they are unwilling now to lend their services to those equipments men who desire to go into this branch of service.

Respectfully,
MICAH TAUL.

ATTENTION.

TALLADEGA MINUTE-MEN.

In accordance to Special Order from Gen. Col. Lockhart, Comis., for the state of Alabama, every member will appear here on Saturday the 23rd inst., at 10 o'clock, with his load of arms and mount for inspection and drill. Those who received Government arms and have left the Company, will return them immediately to General Hovey, or be held responsible for double their value.

By order of
GEO. M. BONNER,
1st Lieut. Comdg.

W. R. STONE, Jr.

ATTENTION.

A SPEECH FOR THE YOUTH.—You have heard the story of the Indian artist, who, meeting with a child of exquisite beauty, wished to preserve its features for fear he should never see such loveliness again. So he painted the charming face upon a canvas, and hung it upon the walls of his studio. In his somber hours that sweet, gentle countenance was like an angel of light to him. His presence filled his soul with the purest admiration. If ever I do, he said, a perfect contrast to this beautiful face, I will paint that, also, and hang it beside you, an ideal of heaven, for you. Years passed.

At length, in distant land, he made a price to be visited, the most hideous object he ever gazed upon—a fierce, hideous fiend, with glaring eyes and cheeks deeply furrowed with age and cruelty. The artist, however, was moved with compassion, and immediately painted a picture of his loathsome form, to hang beside the lovely boy. The countenance was perfect! His dream was realized. What was the surprise of this artist, on inquiry into the history of this horrid wretch, to find that he was once that lovely little boy! Both of these pictures, the angel and the demon of the same soul, now hang side by side, in the Tuscan gallery.

Little boy or girl, if you wish to preserve these eyes, as bright as they now are, and that face as pleasant and sweet as it now looks upon, you must keep your heart pure. Sin can work just such a change in you as it did in the beautiful child, whose picture was painted twice.

Keep the heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

A MORE EXCITING ORDER.—We notice in the Richmond papers that the gallant Col. Robert A. Alston, of Gen. Morgan's staff, at the reception given to his noble chief, upon being introduced to the large audience who were present, made a few brief and patriotic remarks, in which he announced that the General intended, in order to his regiments to whom he had a letter, whereby it was necessary to share every Yuletide they might. This announcement was received with three times three cheers, and great laughter.

Alabama Reporter.

JUSTITIA ET VERITAS.

BY CROSS & CRUIKSHANK.

VOLUME XXI.

TALLADEGA, ALA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1864.

Eight Dollars in Advance.

NO. 3.

BY L. HOLAM.

General Morgan's Escape from Prison.

Special Correspondent of the Engineer.

Dixville, Va., Jan. 3, 1864.

As I have seen many detailed accounts of Gen. John H. Morgan's remarkable escape from the Old State Prison, I have determined to send you the following, as far as I can get it. How often does it occur that "Truth is stranger than Fiction," and to hear the General in his modest way, repeat all the incidents connected with his escape, until his safe arrival within our lines, sounds more like the tale of the Arabian Nights than a record of facts, which we know, have but recently taken place:

In the first place, the prison is one of the strongest, either in this country or Europe as I can testify from a personal inspection, and few men would have the courage to attempt to get out from such a place, even if they were no other obstacle than the walls to overcome; but when it is remembered that there were three lines of sentinels to pass, besides a bulldog, we can but admire the determination which could resolve, and the fertility of resources which could successfully accomplish, such a vast undertaking.

On the 25th day of July Gen. Morgan, with others of his officers, was taken to the penitentiary. He was first carried into the "scouring room" and ordered to divest himself of his clothing each article being carefully searched as he laid it aside. He was next ordered into a large boghead of water and severely scrubbed by a convict. During all this time he was subjected to the vulgar gaze of a large number of people, who were, at least, equally interested in the "great chief." This being over, he was taken into the "Swing room," and required to take a seat, and then commenced the "swabbing process." While this was going on, Col. Clarke and Dr. Steal came in, and exclaimed in great surprise, "My Heaven, what are you having yourself so disgruntled for?" "I'm very mildly and pleasantly replied, "I'm a few moments, gentlemen, and you will see." and enough they did. From here he was politely conducted to his room, which consisted of a narrow cell, four and a half feet wide, and eight feet long. The grated door was closed, and he recognized his awful confinement; a prisoner in the hands of barbarians; who had ever been lenient, bordering on weakness; he who had limb and again released their officers allowing them to retain their horses and side arms, and even furnished their privates with money to defray their passage, was now a slave to them; and in a felon's cell. Like a true philosopher, equal to any emergency, he met his fate cheerfully, urging his convalescents all the time to patience and fortitude, remaining quietly, "that their world would come though late it would surely come." And thank God, he is out now, and it will come. By his prudence and amiable deportment, he so won the good regard of some of the subalterns, that they were disposed to treat him kindly and his small favors for him were often repaid.

After a few days of solitary confinement, he and his officers were allowed to walk in the passage way, on which their cells opened, and to exercise in the yard.

The cells consisted of two long rows of holes in the wall, one over the other.

They opened into a passageway, twelve feet wide and ninety feet long. Every morning, at 6 o'clock, they were roused to pass the passage way and allowed to communicate with each other, and at four o'clock were again locked up. Immediately on the outside of the wing of the building in which they were confined, was a wall twenty feet high, separating them from the female department, and on the outside of this department was another wall, thirty-five feet high with a large overhang upon which the sentinels walked their beat. On the ground, between the inner and the outer wall, a chain of sentinels was distributed, and at night were the sentinel who entered the prison at all times during the day, and at stated intervals of two hours during the night, to see that everything was going on well. When the determination to escape at all hazards was fixed upon, the first thing was to get hold of some implements to work with. So the General made a few sick and patriotic remarks, in which he announced that the General intended, in order to his regiments to whom he had a letter, whereby it was necessary to share every Yuletide they might. This announcement was received with three times three cheers, and they were confined in separate cells. Their

bedsteads were small iron staves fastened to the wall with hinges. They could be knocked up or allowed to stand on the floor, and to prevent any rebellion, for several days before any work was attempted, they made it a habit to let them out and sit at their doors, and, indeed, Captain Hovey superintended the work, while Gen. Morgan kept watch to divert the attention of the sentinel, while duty it was to come to around during the day and observe if anything was going on. One day this fellow came in while Hovey was down under the door, carrying a gun and missing him said "where is Hovey?" The Gen. replied, "He is in my room sick," and immediately pulled a document out of his pocket and said to him "Here is a memoir I have drawn up to forward to the Government at Washington; what do you think of it?"

The fellow who perhaps could not read being highly flattered at the General's descending, took it and very gravely looked at it for several moments before he roughshod any reply. Then handing it back, he expressed himself highly pleased with it. In the meantime, Hovey had been signalled, made ready, and, as it were, was about to go, promising to feel "very unwilling." This sentinel was the most difficult and dangerous obstacle in their progress, because there was no telling at what time, he would enter during the day, and at night he came regularly every two hours to each cell, and inserted a light through the bars of their door to see that they were quietly sleeping; and, frequently after he had completed his rounds he would slip back in the dark with a pair of India rubber shoes on, to listen at their cells if anything was going on. The General says that he would almost invariably find his presence by a certain magnetic gudder which it would produce, but for fear that this acute sensibility might sometimes fail him, he broke up a small particle of coal every morning and sprinkled it before the cell doors, which would announce his coming.

Everything was ready to begin the work. So about the latter part of October, they commenced to "work." All were busy—one making a rope ladder for descending and twisting up strips of bed tick and his macking bowie knives, and anotuating up towels. They labored severally for several days; and after boring through many inches of cement, they began to wonder when they would break through.

Everything was ready to begin the work.

On the 25th day of November, they began to work.

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